

nih record



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NIH-Funded Research Post-Katrina

Losses to Gulf Area Scientists Are Longer Term, Harder to Quantify

By Carla Garnett

There was little if any dramatic footage of storm and flood damage to research facilities after Hurricane Katrina. Everyone was rightly concerned with addressing emergency and immediate needs. Now, though, as clean-up and recovery continue, stories about losses to science and NIH-funded research interests in the Gulf area are beginning to emerge. Although physical damage to buildings and other structures was less than at first feared, affected-area research projects in general and the requirements for conducting them suffered a tremendous hit.

"We are not asking for charity," said NIH grantee Dr. Seth Pincus, via email, "but those of us with NIH funding know how competitive the process of obtaining NIH support is, and that it looks to be even worse in the years ahead. Realistically, given the hurdles we face, it will be extraordinarily difficult to remain competitive. Although I would hardly call New Orleans a research powerhouse, the support provided by NIH plays an important role in the local economy, and this will be important in the city's recovery."

Pincus, director of the Research Institute for Children at Children's Hospital,

SEE **KATRINA**, PAGE 6



Dr. Carolyn Bertozzi

Bertozzi To Give Stetten Lecture, Oct. 26

By Karin Jegalian

When introducing carbohydrate polymers, general biology textbooks typically give center stage to starch, cellulose and chitin. They seldom mention that chains

of carbohydrates with complex and dynamic structures coat the surfaces of our cells and undergird cellular communication, the basis of everything from embryonic development to immune response.

Dr. Carolyn Bertozzi of the University of California, Berkeley, would like discussions of glycan polymers to parallel those on nucleic acids and proteins. She points out that while every biologist knows that there are 20 amino acids and four DNA nucleotides, few automatical-

SEE **STETTEN LECTURE**, PAGE 8



Dr. Hirsh Komarow

NIAID Opens Pediatric Allergy Clinic

By Linda Joy

The smallest sneezes, watery eyes and itchy hives are getting help now at NIH; children who know the misery of asthma and allergies have found friends in the new NIAID Pediatric Allergy Clinic.

Dr. Hirsh Komarow and nurses Rebecca DaMore and Dee Dee Gaskins quietly opened the clinic, located on the 11th floor of the Clinical Center, earlier this year and are now welcoming children for evaluation and treatment on referral from their family doctors. They will move shortly to the new Clinical Research Center pediatric clinic.

The staff takes care to make children comfort-

SEE **NEW CLINIC**, PAGE 4



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briefs

6th NIH Hispanic Scientists Day Set

The 6th annual NIH Hispanic Scientists Day with poster session will be held on Wednesday, Oct. 12 from 1:30 to 3 p.m. in Lipsett Amphitheater, Bldg. 10. Keynote speaker Dr. Ofelia Olivero of NCI will discuss "AIDS vs. Cancer, Antiretrovirals & Consequences." Other presenters include Dr. Teresa Estrada of NCI, who will talk about cancer research careers, and Dr. Ana Chepelinsky of the Fogarty International Center, whose topic is "From Brain Drain to Brain Gain." The event is part of NIH's Hispanic Heritage Month celebration. Sign language interpretation will be provided. For reasonable accommodation, call the NIH Office of Equal Opportunity and Diversity Management, (301) 496-6301.

Wednesday Afternoon Lectures

The Wednesday Afternoon Lecture series—held on its namesake day at 3 p.m. in Masur Auditorium, Bldg. 10—features the G. Burroughs Mider Lecture on Oct. 12. Dr. Daniel R. Weinberger will speak on "Complex Genetics in the Human Brain: Lessons from COMT." He is director, Genes, Cognition and Psychosis Program and chief, Clinical Brain Disorders Branch, NIMH. See story on p. 3

On Oct. 19, there's no lecture due to Research Festival. But on Oct. 26, Dr. Carolyn R. Bertozzi will give the DeWitt Stetten Jr. Lecture. See details on p. 1.

For more information or for reasonable accommodation, call Hilda Madine, (301) 594-5595.

Freeman To Speak at Diversity Rounds

Dr. Bowyer Freeman, director of pastoral care at Howard University, will give the next talk in the Office of Equal Opportunity and Diversity Management's Diversity Grand Rounds Series. The theme for the series is "Diversity in Human Interactions." Freeman's talk will be held on Thursday, Oct. 20 from 10 to 11:30 a.m. in Bldg. 31, Conf. Rm. 6C6. For more information contact Sherrie Davis, (301) 496-6301 or the Federal Relay at 1-800-877-8339. Sign language interpreters will be provided. For other accommodation contact Carlton Coleman, (301) 496-2906.

New Management Interns, Presidential Management Fellows Welcomed

NIH recently welcomed 12 new NIH Management Interns and Presidential Management Fellows, who began their 2-year journey of career development.

The NIH Management Intern Program, established nearly 50 years ago, provides a variety of experiences in administrative career fields for highly motivated NIH employees. Through a 2-year series of rotational assignments, training, mentoring and career planning, management interns gain hands-on experience in a variety of administrative fields. Many graduates of the program have become senior administrators and leaders at NIH. Interns joining the program in 2005 are: George Black, Diane Breckenridge, Rosemary Cerny, Janelle Everett, Claire Gooding, Kichelle Green and Stephanie Kreider.

In addition to the MI Program, NIH participates in the Presidential Management Fellows (PMF) Program, administered by the Office of Personnel Management. The program targets men and women in graduate programs from the nation's leading colleges and universities who have an interest in leadership and management in the federal service. During their 2-year internship, PMFs explore rotational opportunities at NIH as well as other agencies within the Department of Health and Human Services. Joining the program in 2005 are: Scott Jackson, Rachel Johnston, Willie Postell, Travis Speck and Lesley Stewart.

For more information visit <http://internships.info.nih.gov>.



The class of 2007 Management Interns and Presidential Management Fellows includes (front row, from l) Lesley Stewart (PMF), Travis Speck (PMF). In row 2 are (from l) George Black (MI), Kichelle Green (MI), Rachel Johnston (PMF), Claire Gooding (MI). In row 3 are (from l) Rosemary Cerny (MI), Stephanie Kreider (MI), Janelle Everett (MI). At rear are (from l) Scott Jackson (PMF), Diane Breckenridge (MI). Not pictured are Will Postell (PMF) and Brett Jortland (PMF).

Weinberger To Give Mider Lecture, Oct. 12

The unfolding story of how common versions of a gene shape the efficiency of the brain's executive hub and increase risk for mental illness will be told by Dr. Daniel R. Weinberger at this year's G. Burroughs Mider Lecture, "Complex Genetics in the Human Brain: Lessons from COMT," Oct. 12 at 3 p.m. in Masur Auditorium, Bldg. 10. Weinberger is director of NIMH's Genes, Cognition and Psychosis Program, which uses brain imaging, post-mortem analysis and molecular approaches to understand how genes work in the brain to produce schizophrenia.

Weinberger will explain why such psychiatric genetics has proven to be a daunting challenge, using as an example the gene that codes for catecho-O-methyltransferase (COMT), the enzyme



Dr. Daniel R. Weinberger

that breaks down the chemical messenger dopamine. A tiny variation in the gene results in different versions. One leads to more efficient functioning of the prefrontal cortex, the executive hub, the other to less efficient prefrontal functioning and slightly increased risk for schizophrenia. New studies

are revealing complex interactions between the tiny glitch and other variations within the gene and with environmental events such as teenage marijuana use that may bias the brain toward psychosis.

At the end of 2003, *Science* magazine ranked this and related lines of research as the second most important scientific breakthrough of the year.

Weinberger began his NIMH career in 1977 at NIMH's research center at St. Elizabeths Hospital. He was founding chief of the NIMH Clinical Brain Disorders Branch, which moved to the Clinical Center in 1998. His group has pioneered studies on the role of abnormal brain development in schizophrenia, defined dysfunctional neural systems and identified genetic mechanisms of risk and genetic effects that

account for variation in human cognitive functions and temperament.

Board-certified in both psychiatry and neurology, Weinberger is a member of National Academy of Sciences' Institute of Medicine, is current president of the American College of Psychopharmacology and sits on the editorial boards of 16 scientific journals. He has degrees from Johns Hopkins University and the University of Pennsylvania Medical School and did a psychiatric residency at Harvard University Medical School and a neurology residency at George Washington University. He has published over 400 scientific articles and authored or edited six books. 📖

Research Festival Highlights Intramural Successes

The 2005 NIH Research Festival will take place Oct. 18- 21 on campus. All employees are invited to attend the annual 4-day showcase of the intramural research programs. This year's version highlights high-risk, high-impact and interdisciplinary research.

The opening plenary session "Risky Business: Successes in the NIH Intramural Research Program," on Tuesday, Oct. 18, at 9 a.m. in Masur Auditorium, Bldg. 10, will feature the work of four outstanding early-career NIH investigators. Their research ranges from the structure of molecules (Dr. Susan Buchanan, NIDDK) to gene silencing (Dr. Shiv Grewal, NCI) to cell biology (Dr. Orna Cohen-Fix, NIDDK) to clinical investigation (Dr. Mark Gladwin, NHLBI). NIH director Dr. Elias Zerhouni will also share his vision for the intramural programs.

After the plenary session, festivities move to the Natcher Conference Center. Events there include cross-cutting symposia and poster sessions; special exhibits on resources for intramural research; the job fair for post-doctoral, research and clinical fellows; and the festival food and music fair (advance registration for lunch tickets required). The Technical Sales Association scientific equipment and services tent show will be on parking lot 10H on Thursday and Friday. For full program information visit <http://researchfestival.nih.gov>.

Those who need sign language interpreters or reasonable accommodation for this event should contact Paula Cohen at CohenP@od.nih.gov, (301) 496-1776 or via Federal Relay, 1-800-877-8339.

NEW CLINIC

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

able during visits. "We all are pediatric specialists," says DaMore. "We are very kid-friendly."

A primary purpose of the clinic is to provide trainees in NIAID's allergy and immunology fellowship program with on-campus experience in treating children with allergic diseases includ-



Nurse Practitioner Rebecca DaMore gives a pulmonary function test to patient Marin Kuntze, age 6.

ing asthma. The clinic also includes a research component. The clinic enhances the training fellowship by fostering experience in pediatrics, says Komarow. The allergy and immunology fellowship is unique in that the program offers 1 year of clinical training and 2 years of research training, he adds.

"This pediatric allergy clinic strengthens the allergic dis-

eases research and training program within the intramural program of NIAID and offers a valuable expertise for the Clinical Research Center as a premier research institution," says Dr. Dean Metcalfe, chief of NIAID's Laboratory of Allergic Diseases and director of the Allergy and Immunology Training Program.

Three to four new allergy and immunology clinical fellows join the program each year. Already trained as physicians in internal medicine or pediatrics, they evaluate and treat patients with allergic diseases, under Komarow's supervision. Fellows are required to complete rotations in the Pediatric Allergy Clinic, as well as at Walter Reed Army Medical Center, Children's National Medical Center and the inpatient ward of the CRC. One additional month consists of a combined rotation through dermatology, the CC core laboratory, ENT (ear, nose, throat) and through the pulmonary function-testing laboratory.

For their part, patients receive diagnostic testing, treatment and counseling for allergic diseases. The clinic can accommodate up to 600 patient visits per year, says Komarow.

The clinic is geared to treat typical pediatric allergy patients on an outpatient basis. NIAID fellows will treat children with asthma, nasal allergies, eczema, bee sting allergies and anaphylactic reactions. On initial visits, clinicians conduct evaluations and diagnostic tests, which include pulmonary function and allergen skin testing. Other tests include using sound waves to measure a child's nasal volume and screening bloods tests of the immune system. Interactive computer software helps assess how allergies affect children's mood and cognitive skills.

"We're looking for typical allergy patients from 6 months to 18 years old," says Gaskins. "We try to make everything as painless as possible."

Children who are recommended for allergy shots will return weekly to receive them. Otherwise, children will return for follow-up visits every 3 to 6 months as needed. Komarow says the clinic would like to follow each child for at least 1 year. Children with the most severe symptoms could potentially be seen on a long-term basis.

Komarow says the clinic will collect results from diagnostic tests in a database for pediatric allergy research. Over time, the clinic's database could reveal noteworthy trends and correlations in allergy symptoms, he says.

Using age-appropriate written questionnaires, he plans to study how allergies affect cognitive function and mood. In addition, he wants to evaluate the effects of allergies on the central nervous system. A computerized interactive diagnostic tool will record children's reaction times and responses to visual images to measure cognitive function and changes that may be correlated with worsening or improving allergic symptoms.

Parents who would like information on evaluation and treatment at the clinic may phone 1-800-411-1222; for the hearing-impaired, call 1-866-411-1010.

More information on the NIAID Allergy and Immunology fellowship program is available online at <http://www.niaid.nih.gov/dir/training/allergy.htm>. ●

2005 Pioneer Awardees Named

NIH director Dr. Elias Zerhouni announced 13 new recipients of the NIH Director's Pioneer Award on Sept. 29. The award supports exceptionally creative scientists who take innovative approaches to major challenges in biomedical research.

The new awardees, who will receive \$500,000 in direct costs per year for 5 years, are:

Dr. Vicki L. Chandler, Regents' professor of plant sciences and molecular and cellular biology at the University of Arizona, who studies the control of gene expression.

Dr. Hollis Cline, a professor and director of research at Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory who studies neural connectivity in the brain.

Dr. Leda Cosmides, a professor of psychology at the University of California, Santa Barbara, who applies evolutionary psychology to discover the design of the human mind and brain.

Dr. Titia de Lange, the Leon Hess professor and head of the laboratory of cell biology and genetics at Rockefeller University, who studies chromosome caps called telomeres.

Dr. Karl Deisseroth, an assistant professor of bioengineering and psychiatry at Stanford University who develops and employs new technology to probe neural circuits in the brain.

Dr. Pehr Harbury, an associate professor in the department of biochemistry at Stanford University School of Medicine who studies the chemical evolution of small molecules.

Dr. Erich Jarvis, an associate professor in the department of neurobiology at Duke University Medical Center whose research focuses on the molecular basis of vocal learning.

Dr. Thomas Rando, an associate professor in the department of neurology and neurological sciences at Stanford University School of Medicine who studies the role of stem cells in tissue repair and regeneration.

Dr. Derek J. Smith, a research associate in the department of zoology at the University of Cambridge in England and a research scientist in virology at Erasmus Medical Center in Rotterdam who uses mathematics to study the influenza virus and other rapidly evolving infectious agents.

Dr. Giulio Tononi, a professor in the department of psychiatry at the University of Wisconsin-Madison Medical School who studies the neural basis of consciousness and the function of sleep.

Dr. Clare Waterman-Storer, an associate professor in the department of cell biology at Scripps Research Institute in La Jolla, Calif., who studies how cells change shape and move.

Dr. Nathan Wolfe, an assistant professor in the department of epidemiology at Johns Hopkins University Bloomberg School of Public Health who studies the emergence of infectious diseases.

Dr. Junying Yuan, a professor of cell biology at Harvard Medical School who will explore the possible existence of a novel cellular mechanism that detects and removes misfolded, neurotoxic proteins.

The recipients were selected from 840 scientists who underwent a rigorous nomination and evaluation process.

More information on the recipients is at <http://nihroadmap.nih.gov/pioneer/Recipients05.aspx>. ①

NINDS Grantees Share Opprecht Award

Two NINDS grantees—Dr. Stanley Fahn, H. Houston Merritt professor of neurology and director of the Center for Parkinson's Disease and Other Movement Disorders at Columbia University, and Dr. Zbigniew Wszolek, professor of neurology at the Mayo Clinic in Jacksonville, Fla.—recently shared the 2005 Annemarie Opprecht Award for their research on Parkinson's disease.

Sponsored by the Annemarie Opprecht Foundation, the award recognizes scientific papers that present significant results or findings in all areas of research on Parkinson's disease—including basic sciences, epidemiology, treatment, social impact and economic aspects.

Fahn was recognized for his article in the Dec. 9, 2004, issue of the *New England Journal of Medicine* titled "Levodopa and the progression of Parkinson's disease." Wszolek was cited for his publication in the Nov. 18, 2004, issue of the journal *Neuron* titled "Mutations in LRRK2 cause autosomal-dominant parkinsonism with pleomorphic pathology."

Established in 1998, the foundation was created by Opprecht—a Swiss philanthropist—to promote medical or medical-related research in the field of Parkinson's disease. The award will be presented at the joint meeting of the Swiss neurological and neurosurgical societies on Oct. 28 in St. Gallen, Switzerland. ①



Top:
Dr. Stanley Fahn



Bottom:
Dr. Zbigniew Wszolek

KATRINA

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

professor and vice chair of the department of pediatrics and professor in the department of microbiology at Louisiana State University Health Sciences Center in New Orleans, has been conducting research funded in the last decade by NCI and is currently principal investigator on two NIAID grants.

Pincus also pointed out that “unique reagents necessary for research projects have been lost, many irretrievably. For my own grant-funded research, I have fewer tools with which to work than when I applied for the grants. I imagine it will take up to a year of work to reconstitute many of these materials. Some will never be able to be replaced (unique monoclonal antibodies,

jobs there. A similar process is happening already among faculty (as I contemplate the future, the idea of leaving has certainly crossed my own mind). And where will we recruit skilled personnel to replace those who leave?”

The Tulane National Primate Research Center, located in Covington, La., about 42 miles north of New Orleans and just north of Lake Pontchartrain, reported that its personnel and animals survived Hurricane Katrina without injuries. Although many trees were downed in the storm and there was some damage to structures, the animal facility remained intact and the center has an ample supply of food for the animals. Funded by the National Center for Research Resources, the primate center supports NIH extramural investigators conducting gene therapy research and studies of infectious diseases, including AIDS, Lyme disease, microsporidiosis and malaria.

With help from the NIH Office of Research Facilities, NCR staff located, purchased and shipped a large generator to the center. NCR also organized emergency shipments of fuel from multiple sources to power the generator, providing lighting and necessary air circulation in the animal facility. Tulane staff have also indicated they will need to replace nine animal corrals and some fencing destroyed by the hurricane, at an estimated cost of nearly \$2 million.

NIEHS’s Capt. Bill Stokes, chief veterinary officer for PHS, is heading a team of PHS veterinarians assisting with zoonotic public health issues in Louisiana. Team members are assisting with carcass disposal at biomedical facilities and are treating thousands of rescued animals. As a precaution against outbreaks of zoonotic diseases, the team is vaccinating and treating rescued animals as they are brought to shelters, said NIEHS.

The Squirrel Monkey Breeding and Research Resource, supported by NCR at the University of South Alabama in Mobile, and Chimpanzee Haven—a sanctuary for chimpanzees no longer needed in research—near Shreveport, La., survived the storm without injuries or major damage, according to reports days after the storm.

According to a Sept. 8 email sent on behalf of Dr. Chip Price, president of the American Association for Laboratory Animal Science, a group of volunteers from the association’s Texas branch, from LSU’s main campus and from Tulane University’s animal care staff made their way through to Tulane’s main campus and “found many animals alive. [The volunteers] removed 175 boxes of transgenic mice and 5 boxes from this facility to the Tulane Primate Center. Rest of animals euthanized. Staff all accounted for; some

New vs. Old Response to Disaster

Back on 9/11, a disaster medical assistance team (PHS-1 DMAT comprised mostly of PHS Commissioned Corps officers) headed by NIH’s Capt. Van Hubbard helped provide medical support for workers at Ground Zero in New York City. The team, a part of the National Disaster Medical System (NDMS), was trained, outfitted and ready to go within hours of the attacks on the World Trade Center. Forty-five members of the team (including a number of NIH PHS commissioned officers and civilian staff) spent nearly 2 weeks at the World Trade Center site and additional members served in other capacities.

There have been many changes that have taken place in preparing for disaster response since 9/11. Today, the Office of Force Readiness and Deployment manages the PHS commissioned corps response at the request of the Secretary of HHS. Thus, although the PHS-1 DMAT did not respond as a team, the overall corps response to Katrina has been intact with many of our team members providing leadership roles, Hubbard said. However, the needs identified in the aftermath of recent hurricanes has raised the question of whether a PHS team with supplies and equipment to be self-sufficient for 72 hours would be a beneficial addition to the current response capabilities.

etc.). And we are much better off than many, since we were able to store some samples in liquid nitrogen and fill the dewars before we evacuated. Similarly, animal colonies have been lost.”

Compounding efforts to get labs up and running again will be the loss of skilled staff, he said. “Many people have already decided not to return to New Orleans,” Pincus noted. “For example, 2 of my technicians (out of a total lab of 5) have already indicated that since they lost everything and have to start over from scratch, they aren’t planning on coming back to New Orleans. The others are up in the air. It will be the most skilled and talented who are able to find jobs elsewhere. Ironically, finding host labs will accelerate this process, since people will settle in new cities and be more likely to be offered

may have lost homes. No report yet as to when campus will reopen.”

“Even those scientists who have immediately found temporary labs to work in face months when no real work will be done in labs,” Pincus explained. “We have personal lives to get back together, closed and damaged buildings, etc. Our institute was undamaged, so we can get going almost immediately when New Orleans becomes habitable. But I still estimate that there will be a 3- to 4-month loss of work time, even for those already in other labs.”

As the *Record* went to press, Pincus reported that he and his associates were “planning to reopen on Oct. 1, barring more problems from [Hurricane] Rita.”

‘Team Gumby’ Learns to Be Flexible

If disasters have one lesson to teach responders, it’s that you better keep your improvisational chops honed and your bags packed.

Charles McGarvey, a Clinical Center physical therapist who was part of a 38-person PHS team dispatched to Baton Rouge, got a call from Admiral John Babb the day before Hurricane Katrina hit New Orleans.

“Do you have your bags packed?” asked the admiral in a Sunday morning phone call. By 5 p.m., McGarvey was at a special tarmac at Dulles Airport, boarding a jet to Jackson, Miss.

Team Alpha was originally scheduled to fly into Meridian, Miss., then go to the Superdome in New Orleans. But in the space of a few hours, they were redirected to Jackson, where their mission was “field hospital augmentation.”

Jackson turned out to be a mere layover, a place to rent 18 minivans at midnight for the drive further south to Baton Rouge, where the team reported to the Pete Maravich Assembly Center (PMAC), a basketball arena on the campus of Louisiana State University.

Team Alpha helped the Louisiana state health department erect a 200-bed field hospital on the gym floor. Laboring alongside LSU undergrads, town volunteers and trained responders from Illinois and New Mexico, the PHS team had a full-fledged pharmacy up in only 4 hours, and organized a small hospital on the fly.

“Things would change before you could complete a sentence,” said PHS officer Dr. Sarah Linde-Feucht of FDA, a family physician on Team Alpha. “It was a pretty taxing experience... we learned that personality is sometimes more important than skills.”

Another NIH’er on the team, social worker Jeasmine Aizvera, noted that the responders themselves, not to mention evacuees, were often in need of mental health counseling.

Six members of Team Alpha told their stories at a Lipsett Amphitheater debriefing on Sept. 19. The crux of their reports—and the reason they dubbed themselves “Team Gumby”—is that, in an emergency, you do what the situation requires, not what your resumé touts.

The PMAC team triaged 15,000 patients before closing on Sept. 7. Six thousand patients were admitted in 9 days. “About 2,000 patients arrived each day, by helicopter, ambulance and bus,” said Linde-Feucht. A nearby field house was also pressed into service as a temporary hospital.

NIDDK’s Dr. Jeffrey Kopp, a kidney specialist and commissioned officer, also spoke at the Sept. 19 debriefing. Since Louisiana is deep within the “kidney disease belt,” an epidemiological pocket known for its high incidence of ESRD (end-stage renal disease), he and colleagues rapidly evaluated how many hospitals were left standing to accommodate patients needing dialysis.

Some 45 dialysis clinics serving more than 2,400 patients had been shut down by the hurricane, he reported. Fifty evacuees per day were in need of dialysis.

Flying by helicopter around the Crescent City metro area over the course of 3 days, Kopp visited 34 hospitals and obtained information on four more. His census showed 26 of them open, and a dozen shuttered. “We were not there to take charge,” he explained, “but to augment.”

Team Alpha returned to their respective HHS agencies on Sept. 9. In the aftermath of their deployment, they have assembled a host of lessons, chief among them: “Flexibility required due to constant evolution of mission.”—**Rich McManus**

NEI Grantee Helps Hurricane Evacuees

Oklahoma’s Northeastern State University College of Optometry—recipient of an NEI grant to conduct vision screenings for children as part of the Vision in Pre-schoolers (VIP) Study, a multicenter clinical trial—has been providing eye exams and eyeglasses to evacuees from Hurricane Katrina.

The college sent the VIP study van and a team of 40 to 50 volunteers to Camp Gruber in Braggs, Okla., where 1,600 Katrina evacuees had arrived from the Superdome in New Orleans. Camp Gruber, originally a World War II military base, is now a National Guard training center.

The van team, consisting of doctors, students and technicians, conducted more than 300 comprehensive eye exams, at a rate of about 80 per day, according to Dr. George Foster, dean of the College of Optometry. In addition, the team has provided over 270 pairs of eyeglasses, worth about \$45,000, thanks to optical companies that have donated frames and lenses.

“It has been very gratifying to be able to help these people who have lost so much,” Foster said. “In most cases, they had no prescriptions for eyeglasses and just had the clothes they were wearing. Some were legally blind without glasses. Now, they are finding places to live. We are blessed to have the van, and will continue to provide eye health care a day or two a week until the need has been met.”



Dr. George Foster, dean of Oklahoma’s Northeastern State University College of Optometry, examines a Katrina evacuee’s eyes.

STETTEN LECTURE

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

ly know the number of monosaccharide building blocks. (The answer is 9.) In fact, carbohydrates attached to proteins after translation add an essential level of complexity to our genetic makeup.

Bertozzi will describe techniques for studying glycans in mammals in this year's DeWitt Stetten, Jr. Lecture, titled, "Chemistry in Living Systems: New Tools for Probing the Glycome." The talk, part of the NIH Director's Wednesday Afternoon Lecture Series and sponsored by NIGMS, will be held on Wednesday, Oct. 26 at 3 p.m. in Masur Auditorium, Bldg. 10.

Bertozzi, who trained as an organic chemist, applies the tools of chemistry to perturb biological systems and define how biological pathways function. In particular, she has developed a number of techniques for modifying cell-surface carbohydrates in living cells and animals. One of her aims is to identify markers for cancer, since glycosylation profiles are altered in malignant cells.

NIGMS director Dr. Jeremy Berg calls Bertozzi a leader in chemical biology. "The power of her approach," he says, "goes beyond her remarkable skill in manipulating the chemistry of carbohydrates. She also knows the critical biological questions to ask."

During her career, Bertozzi has acquired expertise in a wide range of fields, from organic and synthetic chemistry to physical imaging. Her roughly 50-person lab at UC Berkeley studies a wide range of subjects. In addition to glycomics, her group conducts research on artificial bone synthesis, biological nanoscience and the sulfation pathways critical for the virulence of *Mycobacterium tuberculosis*.

Bertozzi is a professor of chemistry and of molecular and cell biology at Berkeley, where she has been a faculty member since 1996. She is also an investigator of the Howard Hughes Medical Institute and a faculty member at Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory.

She received an A.B. in chemistry in 1988 from Harvard University and a Ph.D. in chemistry in 1993 from Berkeley. She conducted postdoctoral research in immunology with Mark Bednarski at the University of California, San Francisco. Her many honors include a MacArthur Foundation Fellowship in 1999 and election to the National Academy of Sciences earlier this year. Bertozzi

is also a co-founder of Thios Pharmaceuticals and has 15 issued and pending patents.

NIGMS has supported Bertozzi's research since 1999.

For more information or for reasonable accommodation, call Hilda Madine at (301) 594-5595. ①

Mann Foundation Honors NIBIB's Heetderks

Dr. William Heetderks, associate director for science programs at the National Institute of Biomedical Imaging and Bioengineering, was recently honored by the Alfred Mann Foundation with the Award for Scientific Achievement. The annual award recognizes a leader in the field of biomedicine whose work is groundbreaking and relevant to work done by the Mann Foundation. Awardees must have made substantial contributions to the advancement of medicine or medical technology and have inspired others to advance the field. Heetderks was selected for his exceptional work in the field of functional neuromuscular systems. His work in radio frequency-powered control over neural prosthetic implants provided the motivation for development of a microstimulator/sensor system by the Mann Foundation. His continued research in closed loop control of functional neuromuscular stimulation, cortical control of neural prostheses, spinal cord stimulation and cochlear implants has inspired a community of scientists to reach for new and greater medical achievement.



Herrington Named To FIC Post

Dr. James Herrington is the new director of the Fogarty International Center's Division of International Relations. Since 2000, he has been on assignment with the United Nations Foundation, where he provided scientific expertise to senior staff in the areas of women's and children's health, population studies, HIV/AIDS and the environment. He has also been a CDC health scientist with 24 years of experience in international public health program design and evaluation. He has focused on Africa and the Caribbean with long-term assignments in Senegal (Peace Corps), Cote D'Ivoire, Nigeria and Haiti. Herrington earned his Ph.D. in environmental health and epidemiology at Colorado State University.





Schizophrenia Study Advances Trial Trend

A recent study comparing medications used to treat schizophrenia is the latest example of an emerging type of large-scale clinical effort aimed at finding the most effective ways to treat chronic conditions. Such studies are particularly important as the burden of chronic diseases grows and medical costs continue to soar. The surprise in this study is that the older treatments, which are less expensive than newer ones, may be just as good. It isn't the first study of this type to reach that conclusion.

Schizophrenia is a chronic, recurrent mental illness that brings hallucinations, delusions and disordered thinking to 3.2 million Americans. Antipsychotic drugs were first discovered and used to treat the disease in the 1950s, and increasingly potent drugs with different side effect profiles have been emerging ever since. Second-generation drugs called "atypical" drugs have been touted as being as effective as older drugs while causing fewer side effects. Although the evidence for that hasn't been solid, they now have a 90 percent share of the U.S. market despite being roughly 10 times more expensive.

The CATIE (Clinical Antipsychotic Trials of Intervention Effectiveness) trial was launched by NIMH to compare the effectiveness of antipsychotic drugs. The 18-month study involved more than 1,400 participants at 57 clinical sites around the country. Researchers directly compared an older medication, perphenazine, available since the 1950s, to four newer medications: olanzapine, quetiapine, risperidone and ziprasidone. Their primary outcome measure was discontinued treatment, a definable outcome integrating many factors, including doctors' and patients' judgments about efficacy and side effects, and encompassing real-world complications. Stopping or changing medications is common in people with schizophrenia, so it's a particularly relevant measure.

Unfortunately, none of the drugs lasted the full 18 months of the study for most of the patients taking them. Only 36 percent of those taking the most effective drug, olanzapine, completed the trial. The differences between olanzapine and perphenazine, the older medication, were moderate, and the results for the other atypical drugs were comparable to perphenazine. Olan-

zapine might therefore seem the best of the antipsychotic drugs at first glance, but patients in the olanzapine group gained an average of 2 pounds per month, more than patients in any other group, and had blood glucose, cholesterol and other measures signaling the development of metabolic syndrome—a serious health condition.

There's clearly a complex series of trade-offs between efficacy, side effects and price among these drugs and this study will help people make more informed decisions about them. Future CATIE reports will address cost-effectiveness, quality of life and other aspects of these medications. CATIE, NIMH says, is part of an overall effort to conduct "practical" clinical trials that address public health issues. It brings to mind NHLBI's ALLHAT (Antihypertensive and Lipid-Lowering Treatment to Prevent Heart Attack Trial), which compared three major classes of medications to treat high blood pressure and found that less costly diuretics are at least as effective as higher-priced drugs.

Given the high costs of health care, these types of head-to-head comparisons will be critical for delivering better, more cost-effective care.—

Harrison Wein

Symposium on Tobacco Research

A symposium titled "Transdisciplinary Tobacco Use Research from the Laboratory to the Population," will be held from 3 to 5 p.m. on Tuesday, Oct. 25 in the Natcher Conference Center. It will highlight research from the Transdisciplinary Tobacco Use Research Centers (TTURCs).

The symposium will feature presentations by Robert T. Croyle, NCI; Raymond Niaura, Brown University; Stephen Hecht, University of Minnesota; and Caryn Lerman, University of Pennsylvania. Following the presentations, a poster session will highlight the work of all seven research centers comprising the TTURC initiative. A reception will follow.

The symposium is jointly sponsored by NCI, NIDA and NIAAA and is open to all. No registration is necessary. For more information on TTURC, visit <http://dccps.nci.nih.gov/tcrb/tturb>. For more information about the symposium, contact Mark Parascandola, (301) 451-4587 or paramark@mail.nih.gov.

CIT Computer Classes

All courses are given without charge. For more information call (301) 594-6248 or consult the training program's home page at <http://training.cit.nih.gov>.

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ChipInspector, GenomatixSuite, and BiblioSphere PathwayEdition	10/13
PubMed	10/13
Reference Manager 11 (PC) Basics	10/13
Research Topic Oriented Construction, Analysis and Extension of	
Gene Interaction Networks	10/13
Single Probe Approach Microarray Evaluation	10/13
NIH Data Warehouse Query: Human Resources	10/18
SPSS: Basics	10/18
NIH Data Warehouse Analyze: Human Resources	10/19
Complementary & Alternative Medicine: Databases, E-Journals	
and Other Sources	10/20
Excel Topics - Formulas	10/20
Network Security and Firewalls	10/21
nVision Travel	10/24
PowerPoint Topics: Graphs, Links and More	10/24

NIH Training Center Classes

The Training Center supports the development of NIH human resources through consultation and provides training, career development programs and other services designed to enhance organizational performance. For more information call (301) 496-6211 or visit <http://LearningSource.od.nih.gov>.

NIH Domestic Travel (NBS Travel System)	10/17-19, 11/14-16, 12/5-7
NIH Foreign Travel (NBS Travel System)	10/24-25, 11/29-30, 12/19-20
Travel for Administrative Officers	10/12, 11/9
Fellowship Payment System	10/26
Basic Time and Attendance Using ITAS	10/11-12, 11/8-9, 12/13-14
Purchase Card Training	10/31, 12/7
Delegated Acquisition Training	11/1-4
Simplified Acquisition Refresher	12/5
Professional Service Orders	12/8
Using the Electronic Purchase Log and Reconciliation	12/6
Knowledge Management and Strategic Human Capital	10/20



Two Join Fogarty Advisory Board

The two newest members of the FIC advisory board are (front, from l) Dr. Arthur Kleinman of Harvard University and Dr. William A. Vega of the Robert Wood Johnson Medical School, Piscataway, N.J. Kleinman is the Esther and Sidney Rabb professor and chairman of the department of anthropology, while Vega is a professor of psychiatry. They are shown attending their first FIC advisory board meeting. Looking on is Dr. Sharon L. Ramey of Georgetown University School of Nursing and Health Studies.

Career Management Class Offered

Are you where you thought you'd be at this stage of your career? Depending on what career stage you're at, you need different kinds of information and skills. Attend "Career Management Cycle" and learn the fundamentals of managing your career. In addition, you will find out about resources available through the NIH Work/Life Center. Class is Wednesday, Oct. 19 from noon to 2 p.m. in Bldg. 31, Conf. Rm. 6C10.

volunteers

Clinical Studies Recruit

NIH invites you to participate in a clinical study examining the causes and signs and symptoms of myositis, polymyositis and dermatomyositis, a muscle disorder. Study treatment may be available. Individuals at least 16 years of age with these diseases are asked to call 1-866-999-1116, or TTY 1-866-411-1010, for information. All study-related tests are provided at no cost. Refer to study 91-AR-0196.

Study of Ovarian Function

NIH invites you to participate in a clinical study to learn more about ovarian function. Information obtained from this study will be used to develop a test that will enable physicians to uncover various kinds of ovarian dysfunction early in a woman's life. Women between the ages of 18 and 25 are asked to call 1-800-411-1222 or TTY 1-866-411-1010, for information. Study-related tests or treatment are provided at no cost. Participants will be compensated. Refer to study 00-CH-0189.

Parkinson's Disease Study

You may qualify for this study if you are 30 to 80 years of age and are diagnosed with Parkinson's disease. No charge for study-related tests or treatments. Travel assistance is available. Call 1-800-411-1222 (TTY 1-866-411-1010). Refer to study 04-N-0225.

Healthy Women Needed

The Behavioral Endocrinology Branch, NIMH, is seeking female volunteers ages 18-55 to participate in studies of the effects of menstrual cycle hormones on brain and behavior. Volunteers must have regular menstrual cycles with no changes in mood in relationship to menses, be free of medical illnesses and not taking any hormones or medication on a regular basis. Payment will be in accordance with the duration of each visit and the type of protocol. For more information, call Linda Simpson-St. Clair, (301) 496-9576 (TTY 1-866-411-1010).

Are You Nearing the Perimenopause?

The Behavioral Endocrinology Branch, NIMH, seeks healthy female volunteers ages 40-50 to participate in longitudinal studies of the perimenopause. Volunteers must have regular menstrual cycles and be medication-free. Periodic hormonal evaluations, symptom ratings and occasional interviews will be performed. Subjects will be paid. Call Linda Simpson-St. Clair, (301) 496-9576 (TTY 1-866-411-1010).

Healthy Volunteers Needed

Platelets are blood cells that help to stop bleeding. People with abnormal or missing platelet sacs tend to bleed longer than other people. NIH doctors are conducting a study to examine how platelet sacs are formed and what happens to cause bleeding disorders. Study results may contribute to the medical care, treatment and prevention of problems associated with this disorder. If you have been diagnosed with abnormal platelets, call 1-800-411-1222 (TTY 1-866-411-1010). Refer to study 04-HG-0226.

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Capt. Helena Mishoe, NHLBI, presents Dr. J. Sri Ram the NHLBI 2005 Distinguished Diversity Enhancement Award in recognition of his extraordinary commitment and outstanding contributions over several decades to ensure a future research workforce of the highest quality and reflective of the nation's diversity.

NHLBI's Ram Retires After 40 Years

Dr. J. Sri Ram retired recently from NHLBI's Division of Lung Diseases (DLD). He was employed at the institute for 28 years and had been with NIH since 1965.

When he retired, Ram was group leader, Training and Special Programs, Airway Biology and Disease Program, a position he held since 1994.

A native of India, Ram earned a Ph.D. in biochemistry at the Indian Institute of Science in Bangalore. He came to the United States in 1953 to join Fordham University in New York and spent his first 20 years in the U.S. doing laboratory research at a variety of institutions. While at NIH, Ram returned to the Indian Institute of Science in 1972 for a year as a Fulbright visiting professor to teach immunology and to organize workshops on immunochemical techniques.

Dr. James Kiley, DLD director, said that Ram made significant contributions to advancing minority investigators' careers and to efforts to reduce health disparities in minority populations. Kiley highlighted Ram's development of an Academic Award grant program to enhance the ability of physicians and other health care professionals to address disparities in the incidence, management and outcomes of cardiovascular, pulmonary, hematological and sleep disorders among various population groups in the U.S. in a culturally sensitive manner.

An accomplishment of which Ram is particularly proud is his participation in an NHLBI/WHO initiative called GOLD (Global initiative on Obstructive Lung Disease). The initiative resulted in the first international guidelines for the diagnosis, management and prevention of chronic obstructive pulmonary disease in 2001.



Interinstitute Relay Draws Crowd to Bldg. 1 Lawn

PHOTOS: ERNIE BRANSON

The 22nd Interinstitute Relay Race drew 77 teams to the lawn of Bldg. 1 on Sept. 15. NIH director Dr. Elias Zerhouni started the first heat. Runners, in teams of five, completed laps around Bldg. 1. Winning in a time of 14:04 were members of Wurtz Possible Runners, a team that has competed regularly in the relay since 1979. Members hail from Dr. Robert Wurtz's Laboratory of Sensorimotor Research, NEI.

Top left:

NIH director Dr. Elias Zerhouni (l) chats with Jeff Green of the Clinical Center's PET/nuclear medicine department before the first heat.

Top right:

NIH deputy director Dr. Raynard Kington starts heat two with a whistle blast.

Top Ten Relay Finishers

1. Wurtz Possible Runners	14:04
2. Proud Snail Hunters	14:12
3. Bolting Electrons	14:34
4. The Super Oxides	14:47
5. Genomers	15:05
6. First Place	15:11
7. Too Fast 1	15:30
8. Li'l D's Dawgs	15:38
9. Waisted Kinetics	15:57
10. Catch Me If You Can(cer)	16:15



Left:

The winning team—Wurtz Possible Runners—featured (from l) Simon Hong, Hendrikje Nienborg, Kae Nakamura, Okihide Hikosaka and Ralf Haefner.

Above:

NCI's Dr. Harold Seifried issues a "Call to Races" on trumpet prior to the first heat.

Middle:

Second place finisher Proud Snail Hunters include (from l) Patricia Zerfas, Christian Camacho, Christopher Lanczycki, Kathi Canese and Greg Schuler.



Bottom:

Third place finisher Bolting Electrons are (from l) Tracy Laabs, Adam Bennett, Nadia Bouhram, Rachid Sougrat, Sriram Subramaniam and Jeff Lengyel.

